

What is claimed is:

1. A manual type tilting assembly for a vehicle steering column comprising:
  - a support housing to be supported by a vehicle,
  - a tilt housing defining an upper steering shaft axis (A) for rotatably supporting an upper steering shaft for rotation about said axis,
  - a pivotal connection pivotally connecting said tilt housing to said support housing for pivotal movement about a tilt axis extending transversely to said upper steering shaft axis (A), and
  - a latch mechanism moveable between a latched position for preventing said pivotal movement of said tilt housing and an unlatched position for allowing said pivotal movement of said tilt housing relative to said support housing about said tilt axis,
  - said latch mechanism including a release lever pivotally attached to said support housing for pivotal movement about a lever axis parallel to said tilt axis between said latched position and said unlatched position.
2. An assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said latch mechanism includes a tilt shoe pivotally supported by said tilt housing for movement about a shoe pivot axis between said latched position engaging said support housing and said unlatched position out of engagement with said support housing, and a slide movably supported by said tilt housing and having a blocking end for engaging said tilt shoe to prevent said tilt shoe from moving out of said latched position, and wherein said release lever extends from said lever axis to a distal end, and including a connection between said lever and said slide.

3. An assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said connection is spaced along said release lever from said lever axis and said distal end.

4. An assembly as set forth in claim 3 wherein said connection includes an opening in said release lever and a tab extending from said slide and into said opening.

5. An assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said slide is pivotally connected to said tilt housing for rotation about a slide axis that is transverse to said tilt axis.

6. An assembly as set forth in claim 5 including a lock shoe fixed to said support housing and having a plurality of fixed teeth, and wherein said tilt shoe extends from said shoe pivot axis to a latch end, a plurality of shoe teeth disposed on said latch end of said tilt shoe for engaging said fixed teeth in said latched position.

7. An assembly as set forth in claim 6 including a projection extending from said tilt shoe in the opposite direction from said shoe teeth for engaging said slide in said latched position.

8. An assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein shoe pivot axis is parallel to said tilt axis.